

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (cancelled)

2. (original) A catheter device comprising:

a hollow protective sheath having a longitudinal needle carrier track along one surface and locking slots near either end of said track;

a hypodermic needle carrier slidable mounted within said sheath to expose a hypodermic needle mounted and catheter mounted thereon and retract said hypodermic needle;

an actuator mounted on said needle carrier and extending through said needle carrier track;

needle locking tabs on the sides of said actuator for engagement with said locking slots;

a spring connecting said actuator to said needle carrier biasing said actuator outwardly to force said needle locking tabs to engage either of said locking slots.

a hypodermic needle mounted on said hypodermic needle carrier and extending longitudinally in said sheath;

a catheter carrier and catheter releasably connected to said hypodermic needle carrier such that said hypodermic needle extends through said catheter; and

a fluid flow path through said device that by-passes said hypodermic needle when retracted to said catheter when exposed.

3. (currently amended) The catheter device according to claim 4 2 wherein said catheter carrier is releasably connected to said hypodermic needle carrier by a forward

retainer spring on said hypodermic needle carrier engaged to a forward retainer surface on said catheter carrier.

4. (original) The catheter device according to claim 3 wherein said protective sheath further comprises a needle carrier release ramp on a needle carrier release tab molded into the internal surface thereof.

5. (original) The catheter device according to claim 3 wherein said catheter carrier further comprises a catheter retainer slot which and said protective sheath further comprises a catheter retainer ring molded into the internal surface thereof.

6. (original) The catheter device according to claim 2 further comprising a port body connected to said catheter carrier.

7. (original) The catheter device according to claim 5 further comprising a membrane interposed between said hypodermic needle carrier and said catheter carrier, said hypodermic needle piercing said membrane when said needle carrier and said catheter are in the retracted position, said membrane having a flow aperture between said port body and said catheter carrier.

8. (original) The catheter device according to claim 6 wherein said flow path passes through said port body, said flow aperture, said catheter carrier and said catheter when said catheter is exposed and said hypodermic needle is retracted.

9. (original) The catheter device according to claim 7 wherein said flow aperture is blocked when said catheter carrier is connected to said needle carrier.

10. (original) A catheter device comprising:
a protective sheath;

a hypodermic needle carrier slidable mounted in said protective sheath;

a hypodermic needle mounted on said hypodermic needle carrier;

a catheter carrier and catheter releasably mounted on said hypodermic needle carrier such that said hypodermic needle extends through said catheter;

a port body connected to said catheter carrier for connection to an IV fluid source; and

an IV fluid flow path through said port body, said catheter carrier and said catheter, said flow path being blocked by said hypodermic needle carrier when said catheter is mounted on said hypodermic needle carrier and open when said catheter carrier is released from said hypodermic needle carrier.